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Dated: 11 May 2005

Signature: 

(Jeanne M. DiGiorgio)

Docket No.: SHZ-024US  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Motoyuki Ashikari *et al.*

Application No.: NEW APPLICATION

Filed: Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: Genes for Increasing Crop Yields and Methods of Use Thereof  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.